

I only learned that perfins were collected in their own right when I read Gloria MacAdams' articles about perfins in the magazine "Stamps" last year. I soon decided that I too would like to collect them, so when I saw our Secretary's address in that same magazine I wrote to him and soon received a reply in February, 1983.

Mr. Rucklidge outlined the details about the Society and reduced the subscription to half price as I was fourteen. In April I sent off my cheque and was soon sent my membership card. Since then I have got involved in the sales packet, the auctions, the Bulletin and I have borrowed books from the library.

I have found that perfins are a lot more complicated than I first thought. The real surprise was that there were so many perfins. I had already made a small collection of about fifty examples earlier this year. When I saw the SEPS catalogue of identities I decided to specialise, and chose the subject of Banks. I now have a collection of some seventy perfins of Banks, of which the catalogue value is in excess of £300 and cost about £20. Included are high value stamps, e.g. four Victorian 2/6 stamps and one 5/- stamp, also two 2/6 seahorse stamps.

As a branch of my collection of Ceylon stamps I have decided to collect the perfins of that country. I obtained Mr. A. Ellis catalogue of perfins of Ceylon from the library and through contact with him I have joined the Ceylon Study Circle. At the moment I do not have very many Ceylon perfins and I am keen to acquire some more. (My address is in the September/October Bulletin under New Members).

One advantage of collecting perfins is that high value and expensive stamps can be bought at a fraction of normal prices. I have decided collecting perfins is fun and am looking forward to a lifetime of collecting them.